

Message Text

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ACTION CA-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7255

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FOR: CA, CA/VO, CA/PPT, CA/SCS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSI, CGEN

SUBJECT: FSI: CONSULAR LOCALS US TRAINING PROGRAM

REF: STATE 214231

1. POST WISHES TO NOMINATE FSL MARIA EUGENIA BARRERO, WHO IS SENIOR CONSULAR SECTION LOCAL, FOR TRAINING PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. MRS. BARRERO, BORN MAY 8, 1943 IN LA PAZ, BOLIVIA, HAS WORKED FOR TWLEVE YEARS IN THE CONSULAR SECTION IN LA PAZ AND HAS WORKED IN ALL ASPECTS OF CONSULAR WORK. CURRENTLY, SHE IS THE ONLY LOCAL EMPLOYEE IN THE U.S. CITIZENS SERVICES SECTION. IN THIS POSITION, IN WHICH SHE IS UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF THE CONSUL, SHE IS THE FIRST POINT OF CONTACT WITH ALL U.S. CITIZENS SEEKING THE CONSULATES ASSISTANCE. MRS. BARRERO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREPARATION OF PASSPORTS, INCLUDING AMENDMENTS AND EXTENSION; CONSULAR REPORTS OF BIRTH; AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO CITIZENSHIP SERVICES. SHE IS ALSO THE CONSUL'S CHIEF LOCAL ASSISTANT IN ALL SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES, AND PERFORMS ALL RELEVANT DUTIES RELATING TO THE DEATH OF U.S. CITIZENS ABROAD, WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS, REPATRIATION, DETENTION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, ETC., WITH A MINIMUM OF UNCLASSIFIED

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SUPERVISION, A HIGH DEGREE OF ACCURACY, AND CONSCIENTIOUS ATTENTION TO DETAIL. IN ADDITION, SHE PREPARES ALL NOTARIALS FOR THE SIGNATURE OF THE OFFICERS, COLLECTS THE CONSULAR FEES, HANDLES THE DISTRIBUTION OF TREASURY CHECKS AND OTHER SERVICES FOR OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND PREPARES THE MONTHLY REPORTS ON PASSPORTS AND CONSULAR FEES. AS THE SENIOR LOCAL EMPLOYEE IN THE SECTION, SHE IS ABLE TO SUBSTITUTE

IN THE ABSENCE OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES IN THE OTHER DIVISIONS, AND PARTICIPATES IN THE TRAINING OF NEW PERSONNEL WHEN NECESSARY.

2. MRS. BARRERO IS FLUENT NOT ONLY IN ENGLISH, BUT ALSO IN FRENCH AND HER NATIVE SPANISH. HER HIGHER EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENTS INCLUDE STUDIES AT THE LONDON COLLEGE OF THE SACRED HEART, LONDON; A LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE FROM NEWTON COLLEGE OF THE SACRED HEART, BOSTON; AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE DIPLOMA FROM THE PITMAN INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LONDON; AND A LOWER CERTIFICATE OF ENGLISH FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND.

3. MRS. BARRERO RECEIVED A MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD ON FEBRUARY 3, 1974, SHE WAS PROMOTED TO HER PRESENT GRADE (FSL-9-1) IN NOVEMBER, 1976. SHE HAS COMPLETED THE CORRESPONDENCE CONSULAR TRAINING COURSE IN PASSPORT/CITIZENSHIP WITH A GRADE OF 80 PCT, ALTHOUGH FINAL TEST HAS NOT YET BEEN GIVEN BECAUSE OF RECENT TURNOVER IN OFFICER PERSONNEL IN THE SECTION. TEST WILL BE GIVEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. CONSULAR SECTION IN LA PAZ IS A SMALL SECTION (TWO OFFICERS AND FOUR LOCAL EMPLOYEES). IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A RELATIVELY HIGH TURNOVER AMONG THREE OF THE FOUR FSL POSITIONS. MRS. BARRERO, BECAUSE OF THE LENGTH OF HER SERVICE AND HER WIDE EXPERIENCE, HAS BEEN AN ELEMENT OF STABILITY AND CONTINUITY IN THE SECTION. IN PAST YEAR,
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CONSULAR WORKLOAD HAS GROWN TREMENDOUSLY, ESPECIALLY IN SCS AREA, THUS INCREASING MRS. BARRERO'S VALUE TO THE SECTION. THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXPANSION OF BOTH THE OFFICER AND LOCAL COMPLEMENT OF THE SECTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO HANDLE THE INCREASED WORKLOAD COULD RESULT IN INCREASED DEMAND ON MRS. BARRERO'S SKILLS AND ALSO IN INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY. IN ANY CASE, SINCE MRS. BARRERO'S PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE VIRTUALLY ALL ASPECTS OF CONSULAR WORK, EXCEPT VISAS, THE EXPERIENCE SHE WOULD GAIN FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED TRAINING PROGRAM WOULD BE OF IMMENSE BENEFIT NOT ONLY TO HERSELF BUT TO THE ENTIRE CONSULAR SECTION. POST HOPES THAT DEPT WILL FAVORABLY CONSIDER HER NOMINATION.

5. MRS. BARRERO WOULD ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON NOV 13 AS PLANNED. COST OF ROUND TRIP AIR FARE LA PAZ-WASHINGTON IS \$936.60.
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